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Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Innovation for Our Energy Future

Amorphous Transparent Conducting Oxides (TCOs) Deposited at T 100 ≤ °C

John Perkins, Maikel van Hest, Charles Teplin,
Jeff Alleman, Matthew Dabney, Lynn Gedvilas,
Brian Keyes, Bobby To, David Ginley
National Renewable Energy Lab., Golden CO 80401

Matthew Taylor, Dennis Readey
Colorado School of Mines, Golden CO 80401

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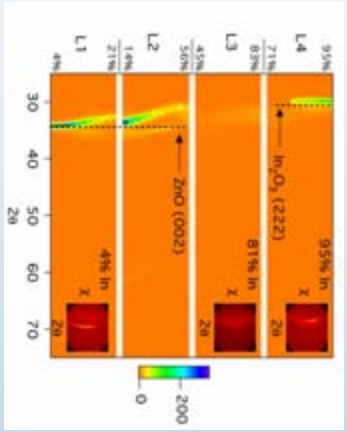
In-Zn-O (IZO), an Amorphous Mixed Metal Oxide Transparent Conductor

- Low Temperature Deposition ($T_S \leq 100$ °C)
- Smooth ($R_{RMS} < 0.5$ nm)
- Thermally Resilient
- Good Conductivity ($\sigma \approx 3000\ \Omega^{-1}\text{- cm}^{-1}$)
- High Mobility for Amorphous material ($\mu \approx 30\ \text{cm}^2/\text{V-s}$)

Combinatorial Approach
IZO: 5 - 95 %In with 4 depositions

Compositionally Graded Films



Chemical

Electrical

Optical

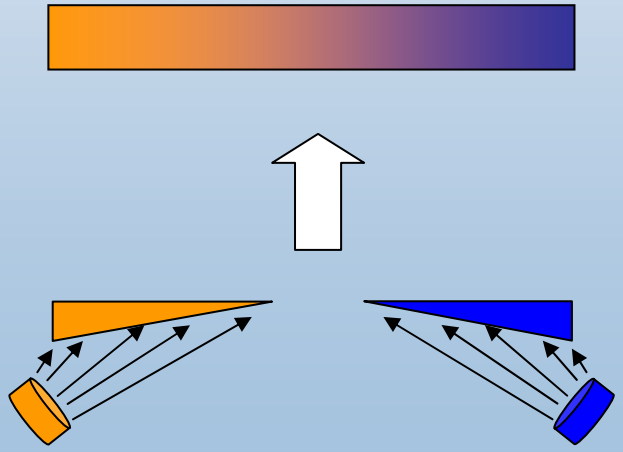
Structural

Film Deposition

Metal Oxide

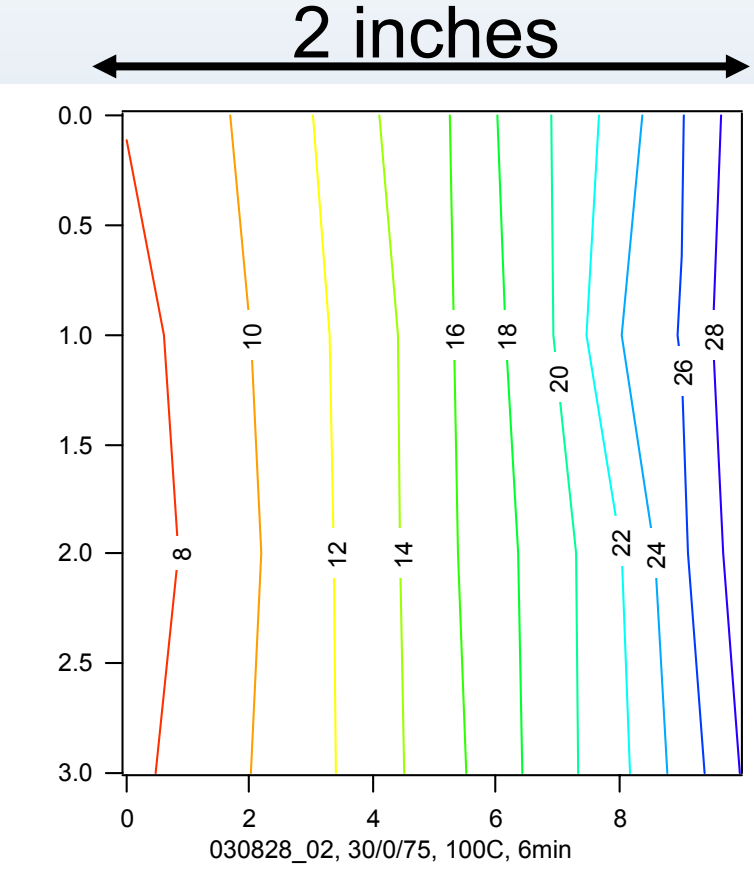
Co-sputtering

- 5cm x 5cm glass substrates
- 25°C - 550°C



ZnO, MoO_2, TiO_2 In_2O_3

Binary In-Zn-O Library
EPMA Analysis



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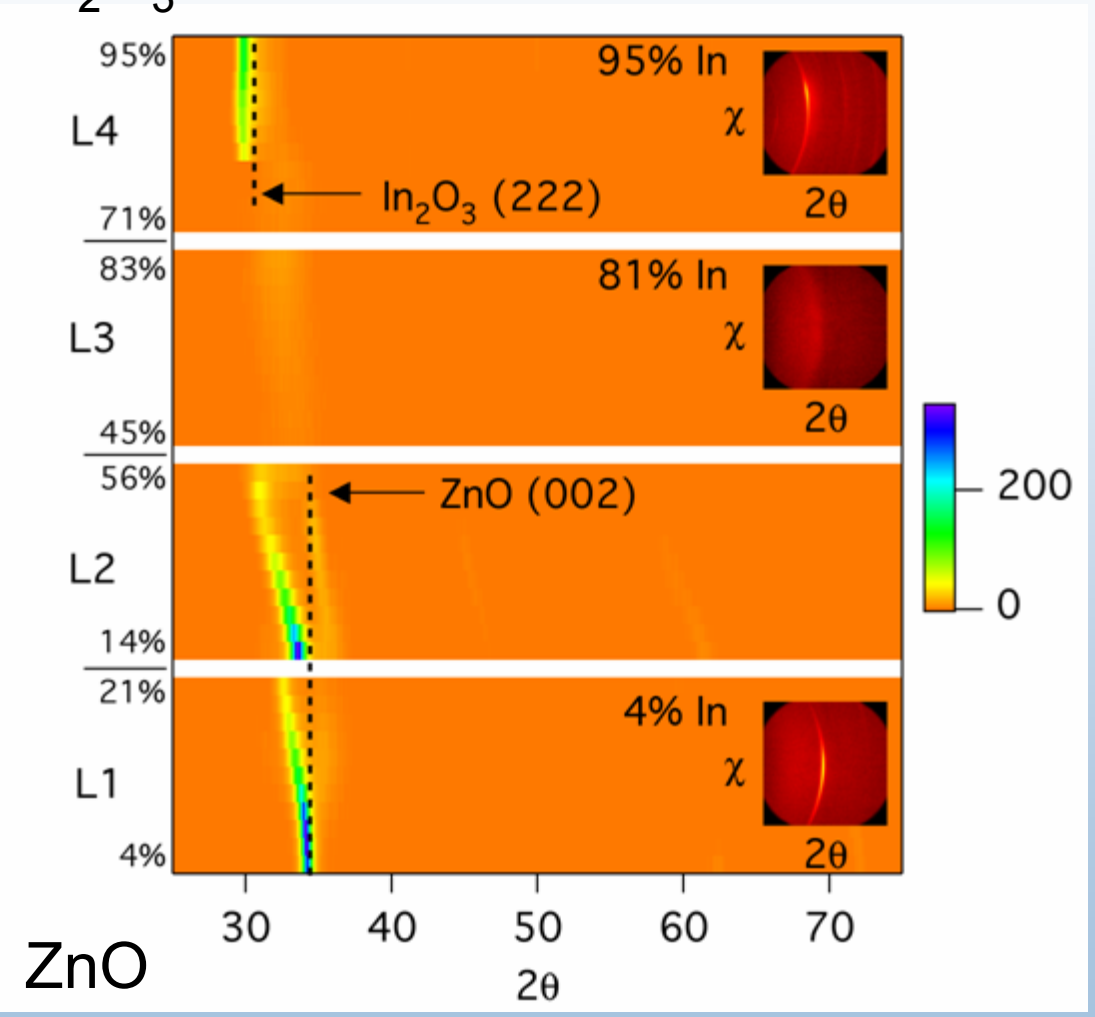
XRD for IZO Deposited at T_s = 100 °C

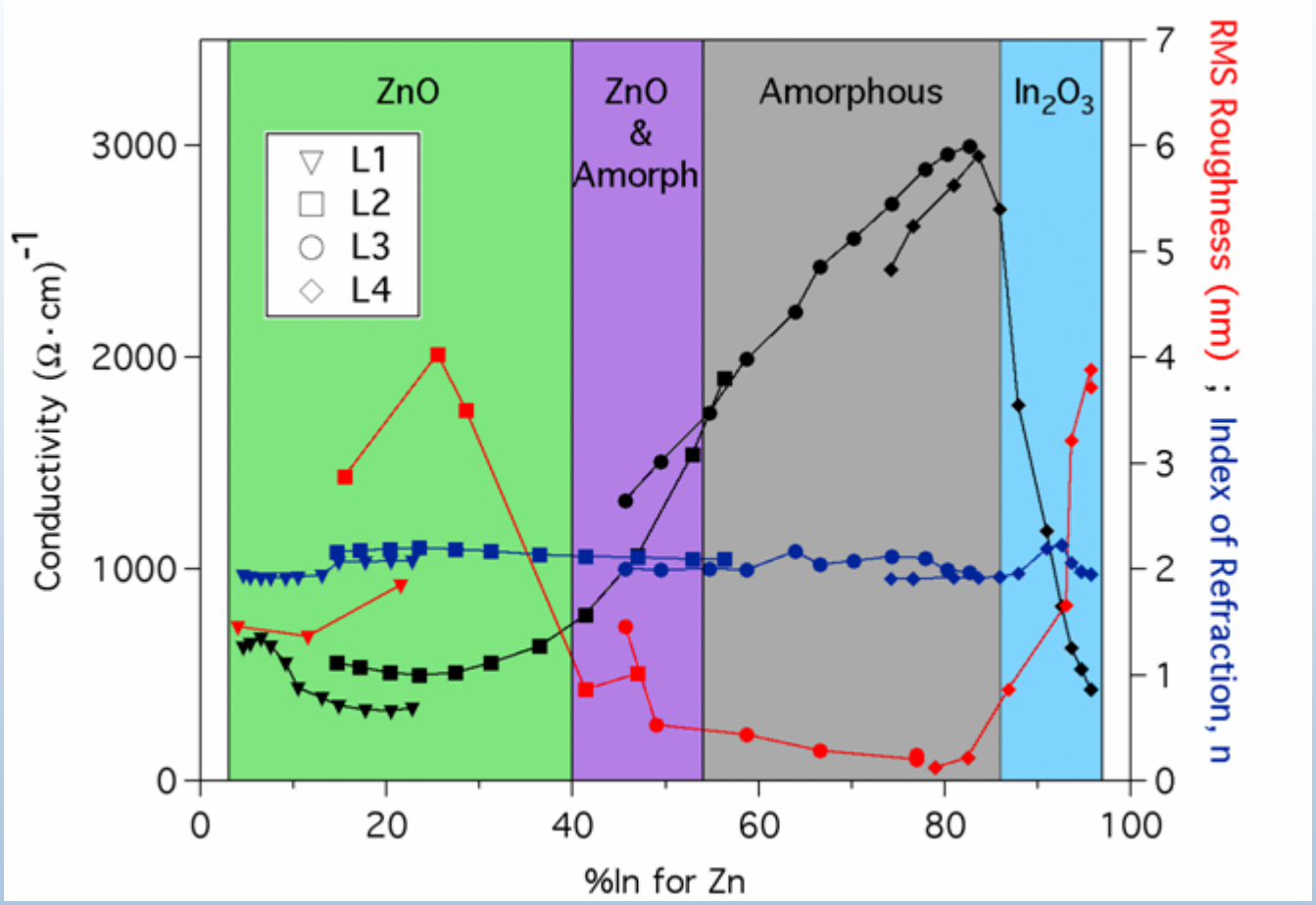
In_2O_3



ZnO

- Amorphous
  55 - 85 % In
- Crystalline Material
  Textured

As-dep IZO: Conductivity, Structure, Roughness & Refractive Index



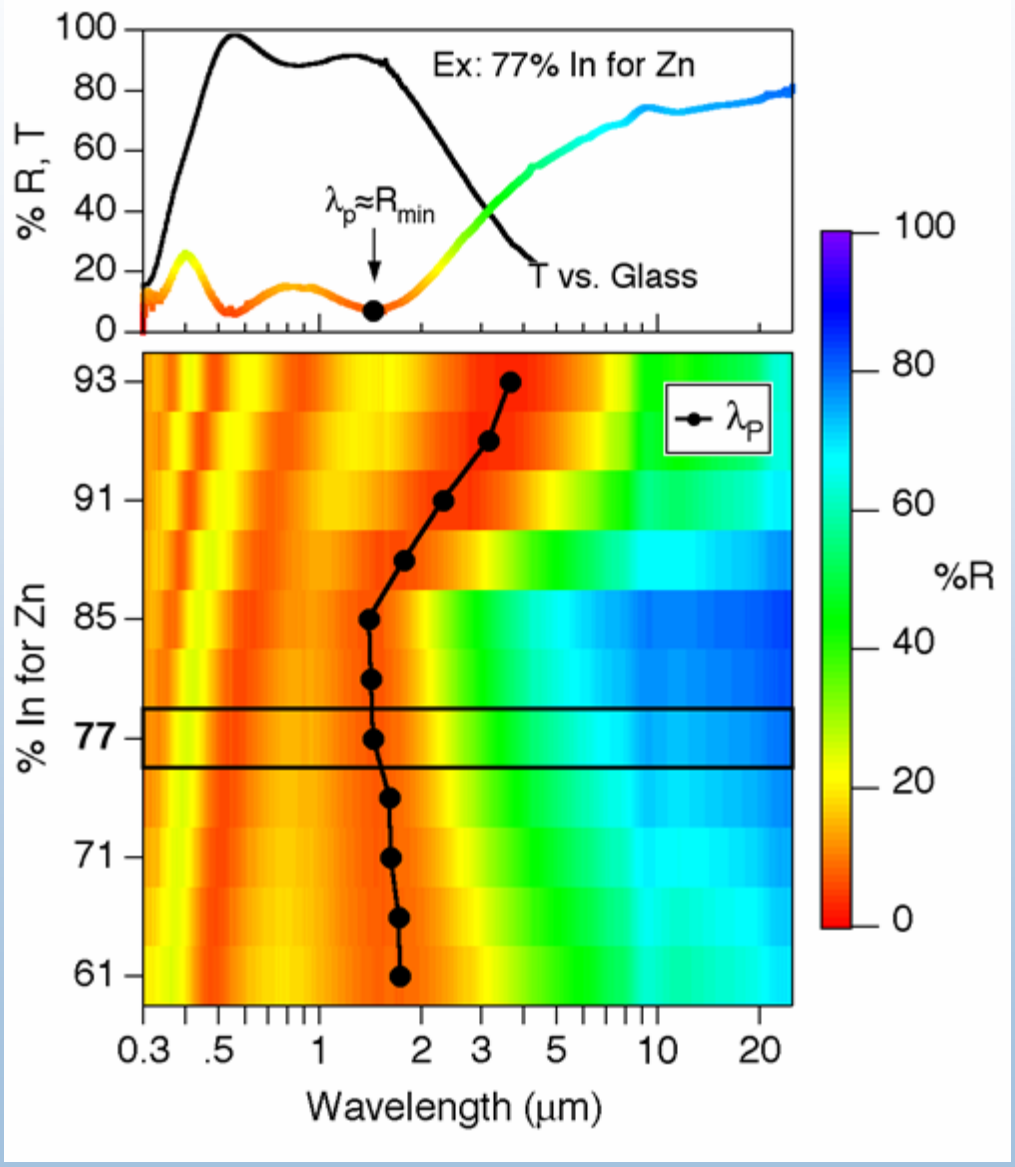
a-IZO (80/20)

$\sigma = 3000\ \Omega^{-1} - cm^{-1}$

$R_{RMS} < 0.5$ nm

Conductivity maximum occurs in smooth amorphous region.

As-deposited IZO Optical Properties



- Typical TCO (R, T)
- Fringes give thickness
- λ_p changes with %In
- Conductivity tracks λ_p.

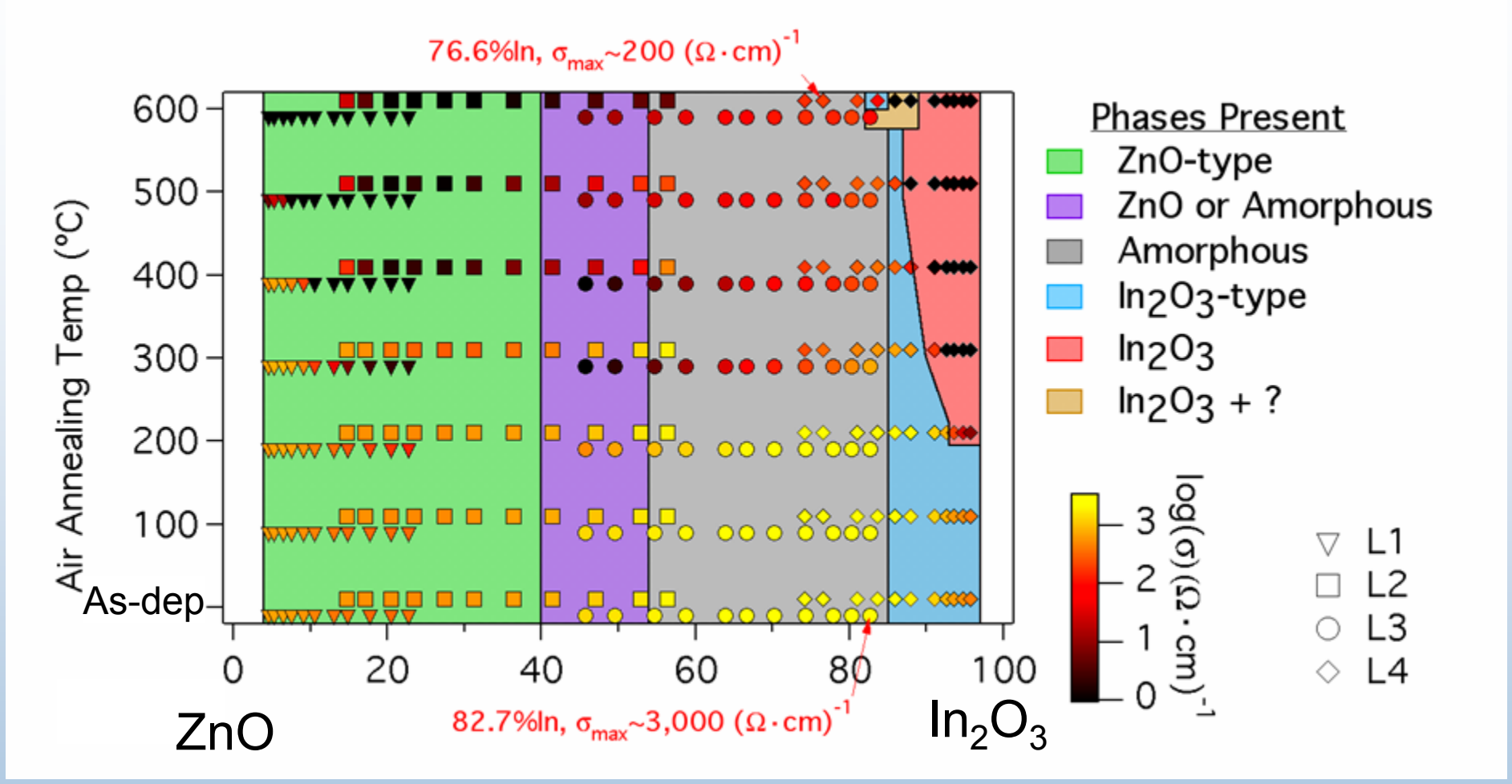
$$\sigma = Ne\mu$$

$$\lambda_p \propto 1/\sqrt{N}$$

Annealing of IZO Libraries

- Libraries annealed for 1 hour at target temperature
- Electrical, optical and structural properties evaluated
- Process repeated
  - 1 set of libraries annealed in air
  - 1 set of libraries annealed in argon

IZO Annealed in Air



- Amorphous IZO generally does not recrystallize for up to 1 hr @ 600 °C
- Conductivity drop for air-annealed a- IZO 80/20 much less than crystalline material.

Conductivity Drops Less for Argon Anneals

Air Anneal

Final Anneal:

σ_{max}~ 200 $(\Omega \cdot cm)^{-1}$

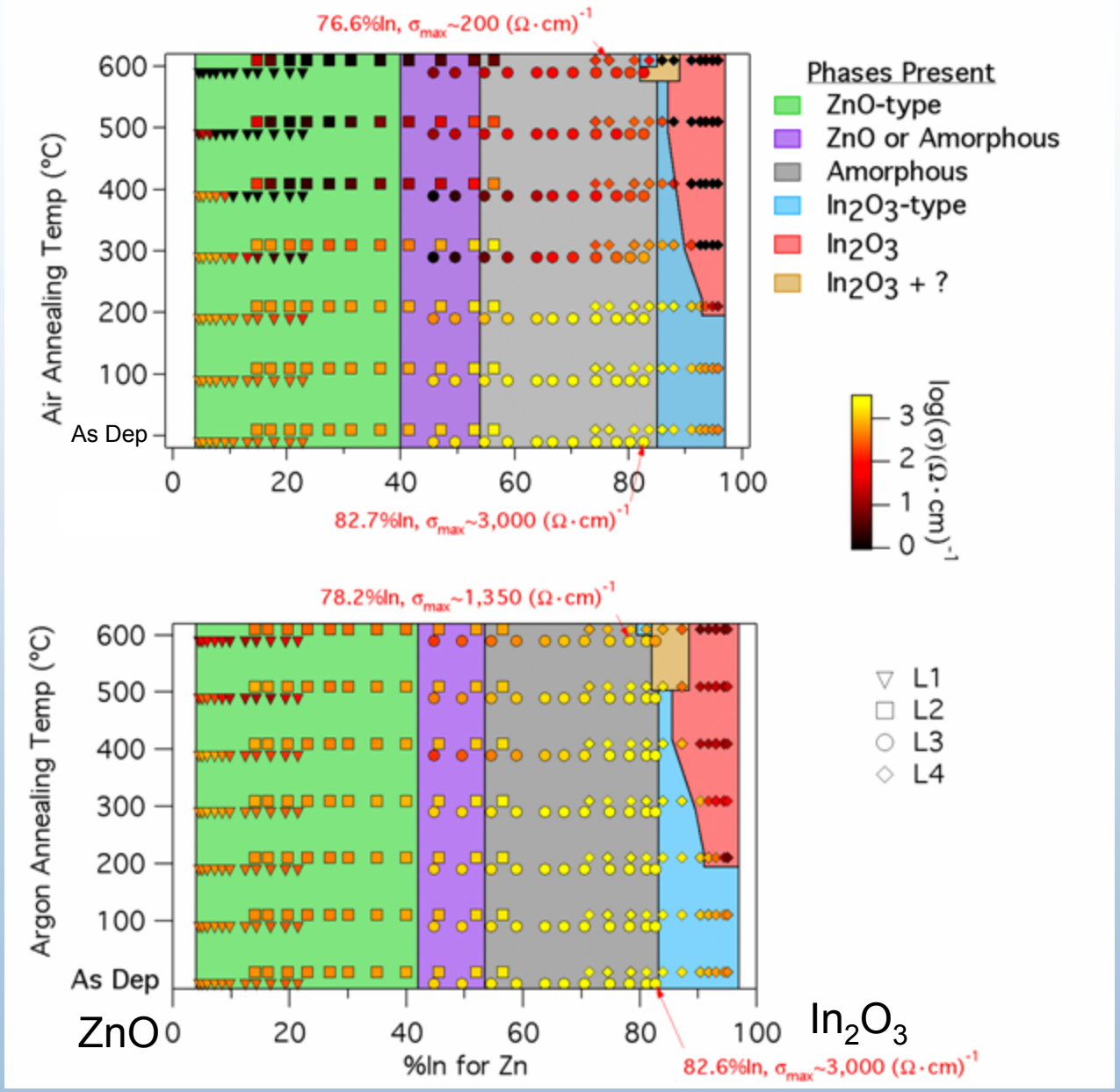
σ_{min}~ 0.04 $(\Omega \cdot cm)^{-1}$

Argon Anneal

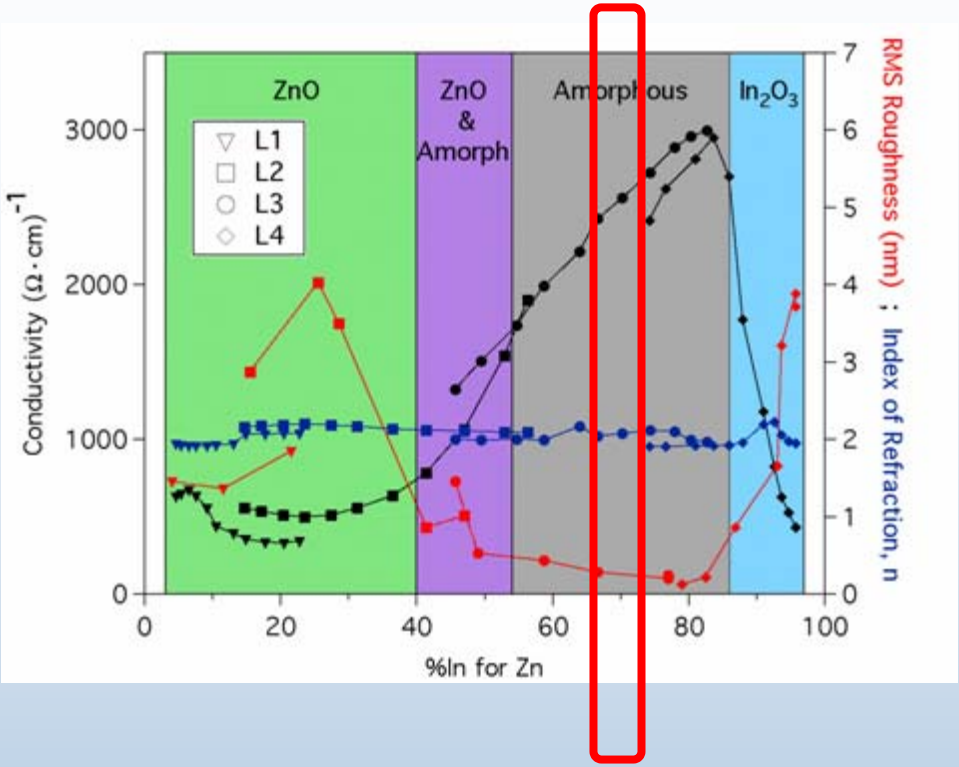
Final Anneal:

σ_{max}~ 1,350 $(\Omega \cdot cm)^{-1}$ [1]

σ_{min}~ 6 $(\Omega \cdot cm)^{-1}$

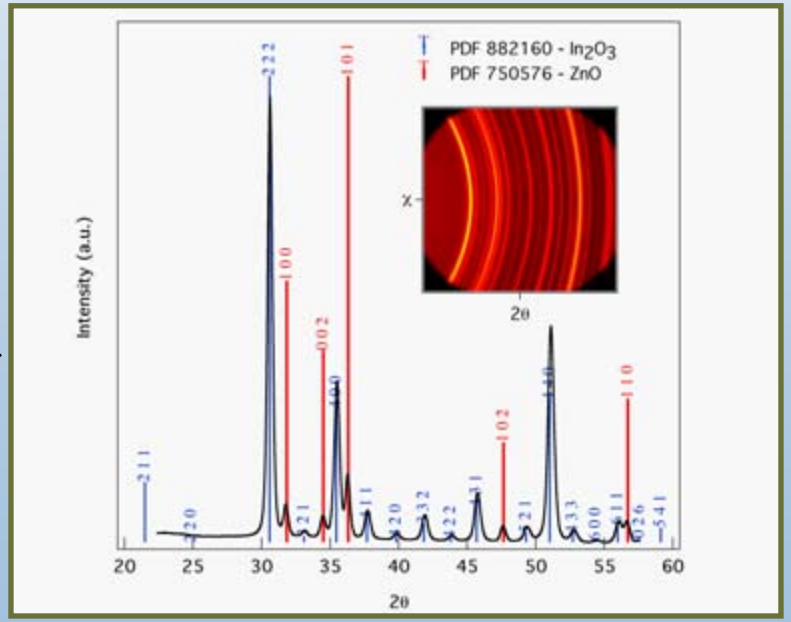


IZO 70/30: Center of Amorphous Region



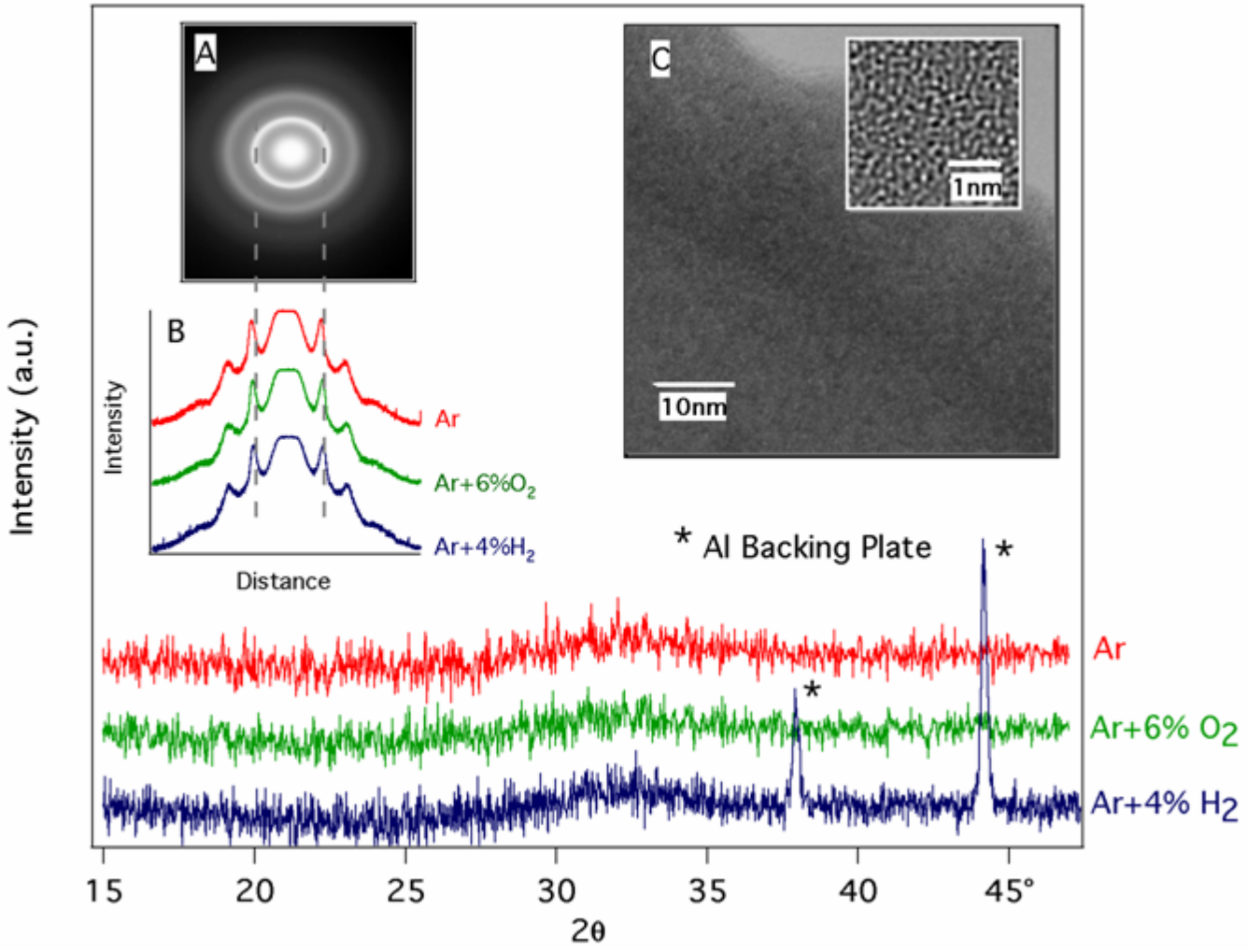
2" Single Composition Target

- Pressed at 25,000psi
- Sintered in air 800°C, 24hrs
- Two Phases: ZnO, In_2O_3

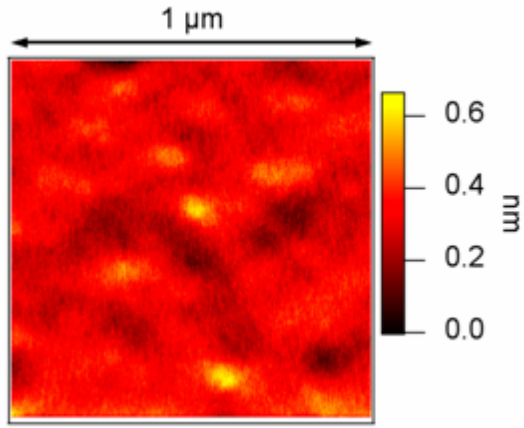


RT Sputtered IZO 70/30 is Amorphous and Smooth

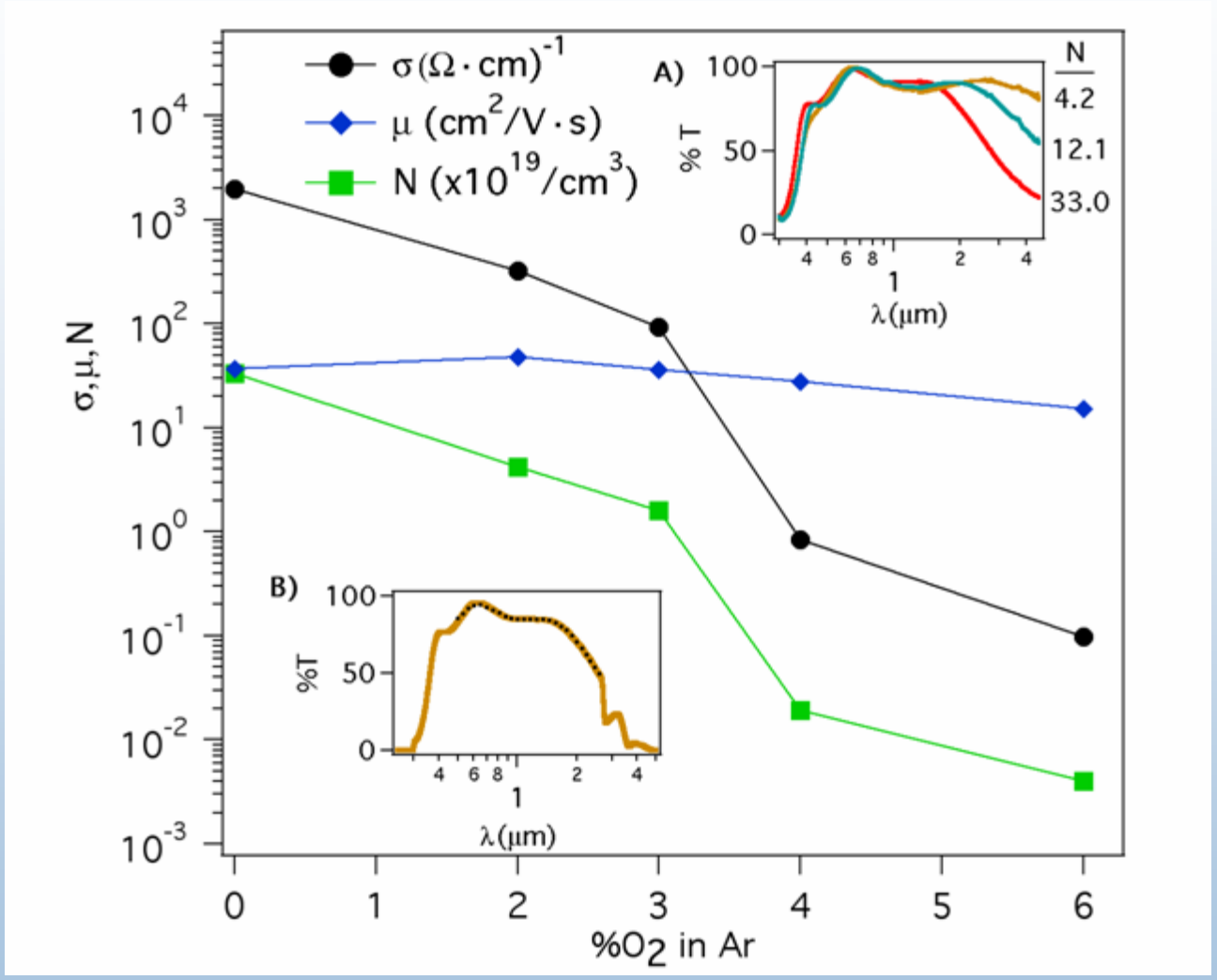
XRD, TEM



AFM

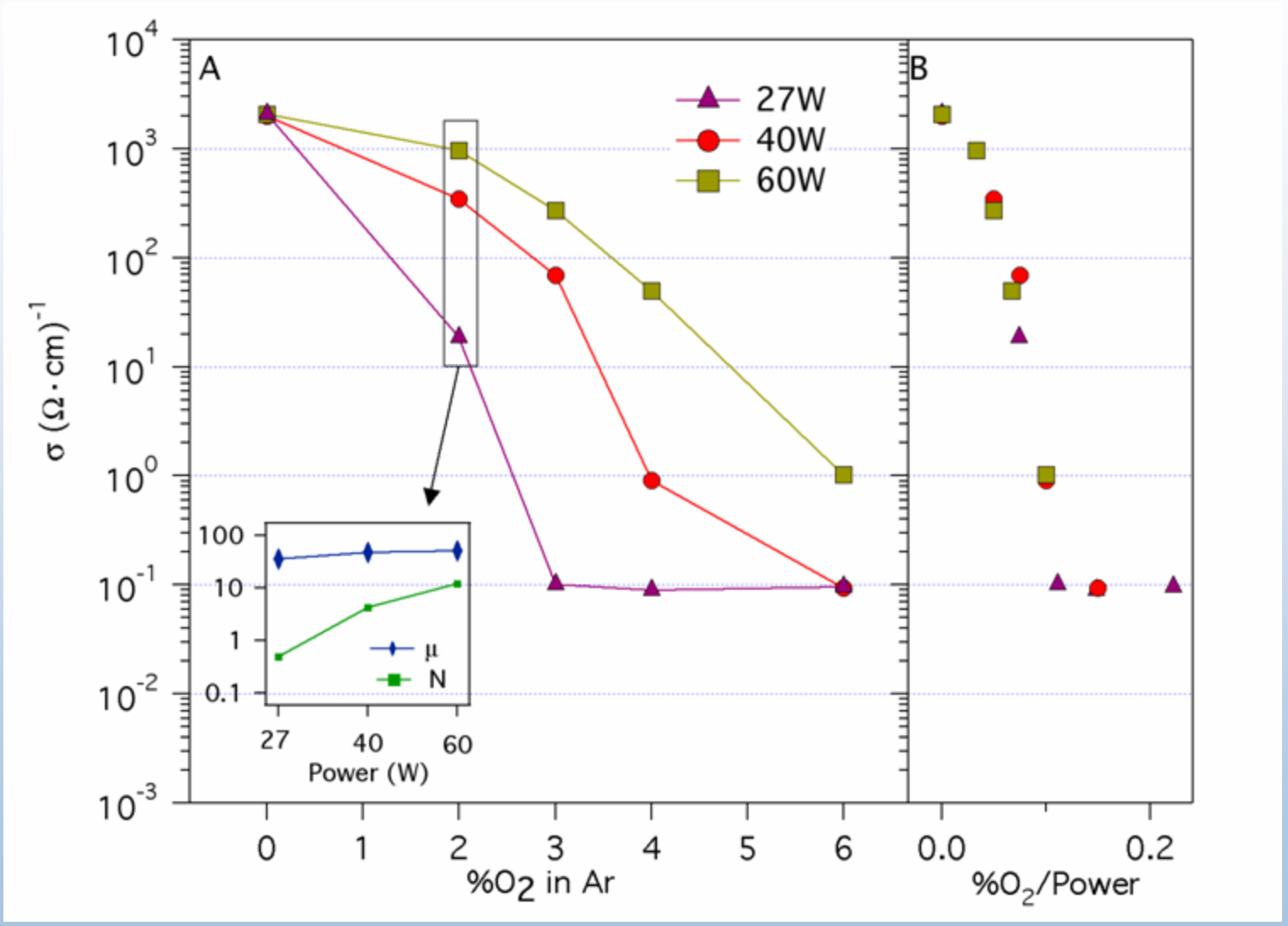


O_2 in Sputter Gas Reduces Conductivity



- N strongly effected by O_2
- μ nearly constant
- μ ≈ 30 cm^2/V-s

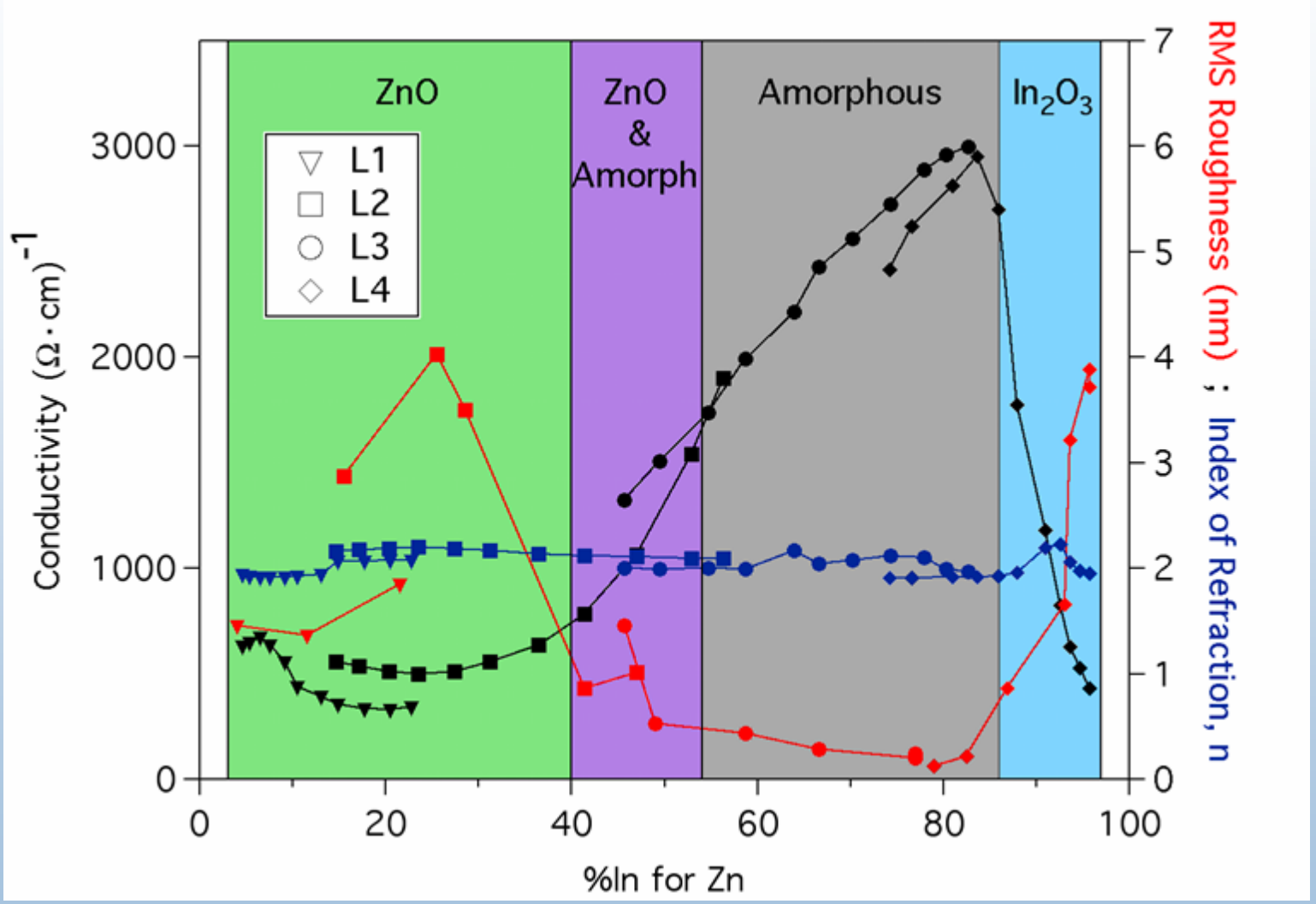
Effect of O_2 Scales with Sputter Rate



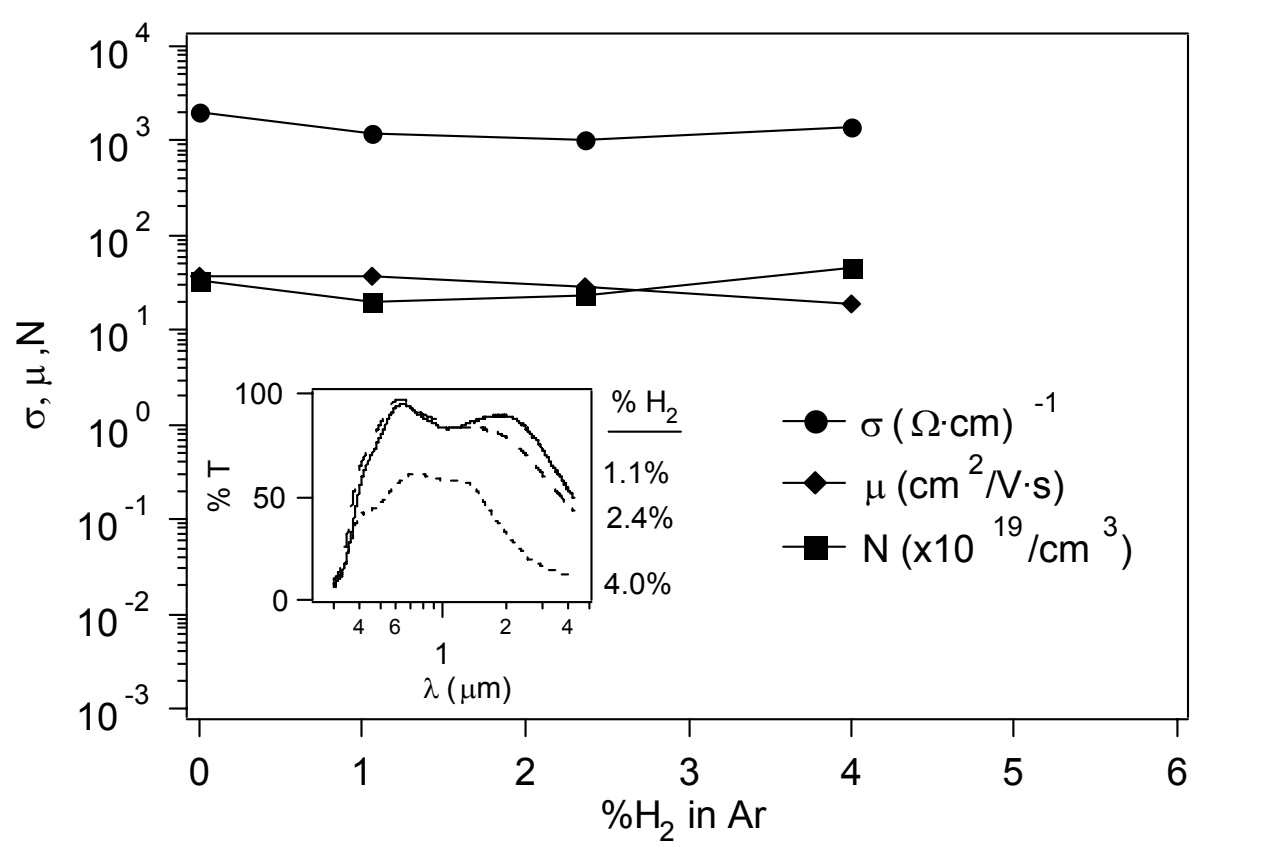
Summary

- Amorphous InZnO (a-IZO) is a very versatile TCO with:
  - Low process temperatures (~ 100 °C)
  - Easy to make by sputtering
  - Excellent optical and electronic properties
  - Very smooth etchable films
  - Remarkable thermal processing stability

In-Zn-O (IZO): as-dep @ T_s = 100 °C



IZO: H_2 in Sputter Gas



- Overall, mot much effect
- No increase in carrier concentration (N)
- Sample gray for 4% H_2